

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA,

August 29th, 1864.

His Excellency Z. B. VANCE,*Governor of North Carolina,*

Raleigh.

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I have frequently been called upon to mention the services of North Carolina soldiers in this army, but their gallantry and conduct were never more deserving of admiration than in the engagement at Reams' Station on the 23d ultimo.

The brigades of Generals Cooke, McRae and Lane, the last under the temporary command of General Conner, advanced through a thick abatis of felled trees under a heavy fire of musketry and artillery and carried the enemy's works with a steady courage that elicited the commendation of their corps and division commanders and the admiration of the army.

On the same occasion the brigade of General Barringer bore a conspicuous part in the operations of the cavalry, which were no less distinguished for boldness and efficiency than those of the infantry.

If the men who remain in North Carolina share the spirit of those they have sent to the field, as I doubt not they do, her defense may securely be trusted to their hands.

I am, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE,

General.

CHAMBERLAIN'S RUN.

The winter of 1864-'65 was spent mostly in doing picket duty and protecting the Petersburg & Weldon Railroad as far south as Stony Creek. On the 8th of December we held the railroad bridge at Belfield and the next day followed in pursuit of Warren's forces, making a splendid mounted charge and capturing a large number of prisoners.

This was the only engagement of any importance in which we took part until the spring campaign of 1865 opened about the last of March. We spent the winter in quarters near Bel-